

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

ACDA-05 SAJ-01 IO-10 EB-07 DOTE-00 OMB-01 OFA-01

DLOS-03 /085 W

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P R 281810Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO USMISSION USBERLIN PRIORITY

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 9709

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 06872

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, WB, GW, GE

SUBJECT: TRANSIT TRAFFIC NEGOTIATIONS--TELTOW CANAL

REF: A) USBER 793; B) BONN 6367

SUMMARY: IN APRIL 25 BONN GROUP MEETING FRG REP (LUECKING) RESPONDED TO APRIL 17 ALLIED REQUEST FOR CLARIFYING INFORMATION ON SCENARIO WHICH FRG HAS IN MIND FOR TELTOW CANAL NEGOTIATIONS. LUECKING PROVIDED LISTING OF AREAS WHICH FRG/SENAT DESIRE TO HAVE INCLUDED IN ALLIED NEGOTIATING MANDATE TO SENAT, URGED QUICK ACTION ON PART OF ALLIES, AND SAID CONSIDERATION NOW BEING GIVEN BY BONN TO HAVING GAUS, IN ADVANCE OF SENAT-GDR NEGOTIATIONS ON CANAL, EXPLAIN TO GDR BONN'S VIEW OF FRG COMPETENCE WITH RESPECT TO CANAL TALKS. IN SEPARATE TRIPARTITE MEETING, ALLIES AGREED TO REQUEST BERLIN MISSIONS TO PRODUCE DRAFT MANDATE WHICH CAPITALS AND

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EMBASSIES WOULD HAVE OPPORTUNITY TO REVIEW BEFORE

ISSUANCE. END SUMMARY.

1. IN APRIL 25 BONN GROUP MEETING LUECKING INFORMED ALLIES OF RESULTS OF INTERMINISTERIAL FRG-SENAT MEETING HELD EARLIER IN DAY REGARDING TELTOW CANAL NEGOTIATIONS. FRG/SENAT HOPE WAS THAT ALLIES WOULD MOVE AHEAD QUICKLY TO GIVE NEGOTIATING MANDATE TO SENAT. BONN WISHED TO KEEP TALKS ON ROAD, RAIL, AND CANAL MATTERS ON PARALLEL AND TOO MUCH DELAY ON TELTOW WOULD MOVE THE THREE SETS OF NEGOTIATIONS OUT OF PHASE. BONN ALSO BELIEVED IT WOULD BE DISADVANTAGEOUS TO ALLOW MUCH MORE TIME TO ELAPSE SINCE IT WAS POSSIBLE THAT GDR WOULD MAKE A DETAILED INITIATIVE OF ITS OWN TO OPEN TALKS BETWEEN EAST GERMAN AND SENAT ON THE CANAL. LUECKING (FOLLOWING UP ON A QUESTION RAISED IN APRIL 19 MEETING BY FRENCH REP--SEE PARA 3 REFTEL B) SAID IDEA NOW UNDER CONSIDERATION BY BONN TO HAVE GAUS, PRIOR TO START OF SENAT-GDR TALKS, EXPLAIN IN GDR MFA THE FRG POSITION REGARDING ITS COMPETENCE WITH RESPECT TO OPENING TELTOW. REGARDING THE QUESTION AS TO THE NUMBER OF AGREEMENTS ON TELTOW AND WHO WOULD BE SIGNING THEM (E.G., PERHAPS TWO AGREEMENTS--ONE BETWEEN FRG AND GDR ON POLITICAL DECISION TO OPEN CANAL AND ONE REGARDING CONSTRUCTION AND ADMINISTRATION OF FACILITIES), LUECKING SAID FRG WAS CONSIDERING THIS BUT NO FINAL DECISION HAS YET BEEN REACHED.

2. REGARDING THE MANDATE, LUECKING SAID IT HAD BEEN AGREED BY FRG AND SENAT THAT THE ALLIED MANDATE TO SENAT SHOULD BE LIMITED TO FIVE ITEMS WHICH COVER THE MEASURES NECESSARY TO PREPARE THE CANAL FOR TRAFFIC:

- (A) CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE OF CANAL INSTALLATIONS;
- (B) FINANCING OF (A);
- (C) OWNERSHIP AND ADMINISTRATION OF CANAL INSTALLATIONS;

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(D) SUPERVISION OF CONDITION OF CHANNEL AND OF
APPLICATION OF RULES OF NAVIGATION; AND

(E) EXCHANGES AND LEASING OF AREAS OF CANAL SURFACE
(THIS APPARENTLY IS TECHNICAL WAY OF OBTAINING
USAGE RIGHTS BY VESSELS OF CANAL SURFACE).

THE MANDATE WOULD NOT INCLUDE CANAL TRAFFIC MATTERS
PER SE AND PARTICULARLY NOT THE TRANSIT REGIME.

4. COMMENT AND ACTION REQUESTED: TRIPARTITE AGREEMENT
REACHED TO ASK BERLIN MISSIONS TO PRODUCE DRAFT
MANDATE, WHICH CAPITALS AND EMBASSIES WOULD HAVE AN
OPPORTUNITY TO REVIEW. FRENCH REP (BOISSIEU) STATED
STRONG FRENCH VIEW THAT WORDING MUST BE VERY SPECIFIC,
WITH ACTUAL LISTING OF SENAT'S COMPETENCIES. "SUCH AS"
CLAUSES WOULD NOT BE ACCEPTABLE. FRENCH WILLINGNESS TO
MOVE AHEAD IS ENCOURAGING SIGN AND MAY BE
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PARTIALLY ATTRIBUTABLE TO STRONG UK STATEMENT TO EFFECT
THE BRITISH WILL NOT BE THE ONES TO DELAY THE TELTOW
NEGOTIATIONS (THEY APPARENTLY REALIZED HOW NEGATIVE THEY
WERE IN APRIL 17 MEETING AND FELT THE NEED TO CORRECT A
POSSIBLE FRG FEELING THAT THE BRITISH WERE SWITCHING
POSITIONS).
HILLENBRAND

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEETINGS, NEGOTIATIONS, TELTOW CANAL, BERLIN WATERWAY ACCESS, INLAND WATERWAY TRANSPORTATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: buchandr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BONN06872
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750148-0818
From: BONN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t1975049/aaaaahql.tel
Line Count: 165
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 USBER 793, 75 BONN 6367
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: buchandr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <17 APR 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <01 OCT 2003 by buchandr>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TRANSIT TRAFFIC NEGOTIATIONS--TELTOW CANAL
TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, WB, GE, GC
To: USBERLIN
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006